

Angolan Leaders Murdered In Coup Attempt

ANGOLA

Western intelligence agencies, acting on the Carter Administration's policy of provoking a race-war in Africa and a "managed" U.S. confrontation with the Soviet Union, drew blood last week with the kidnapping and murder of six top leaders of the pro-socialist government of Angola's President Agostinho Neto. The six were found dead after a coup attempt by rebel forces whom Neto branded a "black racist faction" was crushed May 27.

Those murdered included Finance Minister Saydi Mingas and four members of the Angolan army's General staff, three of them on the central committee of the ruling Popular Movement, as well as the head of the Angolan security organization.

Neto himself noted that the coup attempt occurred just as Angola is threatened by invasion from Zaire, and immediately following armed attacks on Angola launched from that country. The assault on Angola follows a U.S. backed military intervention into Zaire directed by

Carter's ally, French President Giscard d'Estaing.

On Feb. 26 of this year, Neto had exposed an elaborate four-pronged invasion operation against Angola, code named Cobra 77, then being put in place. The attack was slated to be carried out using the FNLA, FLEC and UNITA countergang liberation movements created by U.S. intelligence agencies and used against Neto's Popular Movement (MPLA) during Angola's fight for independence; it was to be coordinated by an array of right and left fascist networks directed by the government of France's Giscard d'Estaing. On May 31, following an incomplete and misleading expose of the same operation days earlier in the London *Sunday Times*, the Italian Communist Party daily *Unita* detailed the links between the Cobra 77 plotters, West German neo-Fascist Franz Josef Strauss, and the French secret police, SDECE.

The Coup Attempt

Early on the morning of May 27, the Luanda radio station was seized by rebel networks headed by one-time Angolan Interior Minister Nito Alves and political commissar Jose van Dunem, both of whom had been purged from the central committee of the ruling MPLA

Putsch Victims Were Top MPLA Cadre

The Cuban Wire Service Prensa Latina reported brief biographies of the six MPLA leaders killed on May 27, noting that the objective of the operation was to eliminate the most staunch defenders of the country. Those killed were:

*Commander Paulo de Silva Mungungu, originally of Mexico. He was on the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Angola (FAPLA), was on the Central Committee of the MPLA, and on the Revolutionary Council. During the war he was commander on the Eastern Front, and successfully combatted tribalism and the divisionist campaign of Daniel Chipenda and his allies. Chipenda, while claiming to be a hardline Marxist-Leninist, waged an anti-Neto campaign in the MPLA during the early stages of the war which was remarkably similar to that led by Alves later. Chipenda tried to pull the eastern army of the MPLA out of the MPLA, but this was successfully defused by Paulo de Silva Mungungu. Chipenda linked up with the FNLA gang, and later brought what was known as the Chipenda brigade to southern Angola, and cooperated with the South Africans when they invaded Angola, the operation which provoked the Cuban entry into the war.

*Commander Eugenio Verissimo da Costa (Nzaji) was chief of operations for the FAPLA in the crucial province of Cabinda during the war. He was on the General Staff of FAPLA, the Central Committee of the MPLA, and the Revolutionary Council. He was one of the highest ranking officials in the Department of Information and Security of Angola.

*Commander Jose Manuel Paiva, Deputy Commander on the General Staff of FAPLA, member of the Revolutionary Council.

*Commander Eurico Manuel Correia Gonzalves, member of FAPLA General Staff and the Revolutionary Council. A lawyer, he organized clandestine cells of the MPLA in Portugal before going to Angola.

*Major Saydi Mingas, Finance Minister. Member of the Central Committee of the MPLA and of the Revolutionary Council.

*Helder Ferreira Neto, key member of the Security Department, and was in charge of surveilling the Alves faction. He was tortured by the Portuguese secret police (PIDE) and sent to the Cape Verde Islands. In 1964 he succeeded in returning to Europe, then went to Algeria where he organized for the MPLA. he directed the prosecution in the trial of the mercenaries.

and imprisoned on May 21. According to the London *Financial Times* of May 30, "Alves, an uncompromising hardliner...had insisted that the whites be denied Angolan citizenship and that the government be purged of whites." The London *Daily Telegraph* added the next day that the plotters, despite their supposedly "strong pro-Moscow leanings...were basically Black Power racists who resent the presence of the Cubans...They wanted Neto to foreswear his reliance on Cubans, White Portuguese Communists and Mulattoes and establish an authentically African regime."

The rebels freed Alves and van Dunem from prison, also released imprisoned members of FNLA, UNITA, FLEC and convicted European mercenaries, all used against the MPLA during the independence struggle. Neto later commented that their release demonstrated that Alves was a "creature of imperialism."

Angolan troops hurried to the presidential palace only to find no attack had been mounted against it. The troops were then sent to take the radio station, which proved to be a relatively simple task, despite some initial resistance, because most of those occupying the station had been duped into thinking they were doing something that was in support of Neto. Neto himself later commented on the manner in which many of the participants in the affair had been led into the operation by its leaders, only to be abandoned by them, letting the dupes hold the bag.

The initial period of chaos and confusion, accompanied by shooting and shell fire, provided time for the rebels to kidnap six leaders of the MPLA. The bodies of the MPLA leaders were later found burned and dismembered, a practice reminiscent of the bestial FNLA actions during the Angolan war.

The loss of such key cadre is a tough blow to the Angolan government. As a result of the particularly backward Portuguese colonial experience, 98 percent of the Angolan population is illiterate. President Neto has

admitted that it is not possible to have an Angolan diplomatic corps because of the lack of qualified personnel. "I wouldn't have enough educated people left to be ministers," he said. Because of the monstrous nature of these murders, "This time we can not waste time with prosecutions because there is no reason to when they behave in such an obvious form of fascism," Neto said. He announced that revolutionary justice will be carried out: "Those who killed MPLA leaders must pay for their actions."

When Neto announced the purge and imprisonment of Alves and van Dunem on May 21 before 8,000 MPLA cadre, he also warned about a possible aggression against the country from Zaire. Two days before there had been attacks at several border points. In addition on May 16 a squadron of helicopters from Namibia attacked the Angolan locality of Santa Clara in Cuene province. In the same period forces from Zaire attacked the populations of Nakto and Beira in Labinda province in northern Angola. Neto pointed out that the coup attempt complemented these attacks.

Neto linked Alves to Portuguese extremists in a June 1st speech, and has declared the Angolan government's intention to root out the remnants of the Alves networks in Angola that hook up with these international networks. *Le Monde* on June 1, reported that Neto stated among the arrests made "some elements of the political commissary of FAPLA (Armed Forces of Angola), as well have been arrested in Luanda. We can say that in the next days other elements will be arrested for having participated actively in this divisive (fractionalist) activity. These elements have constituted a political leadership and an operational command. They also mobilized certain provincial commissaries.

"A serious combat against fractionalism is necessary. In each neighborhood, in each city, we are going to search out the fractionalists and we will carry out justice."

Italian CP Exposes Coup Plotters

The May 29 London Sunday Times published a front page article on the planned "Cobra 77" four-prong invasion of Angola, purporting to expose the international connections of the operation. The paper attempted to link the operation to Gaullist circles in France, as well as to unspecified circles in the West German government.

The Sunday Times also claimed that large sections of the Angolan population were disaffected from the government. This judgment was in part based on incidents that occurred during the war two years ago. Pravda of May 31, referring to the Times article, noted that the Times is well known for spreading false information.

The Italian Communist Party daily Unita, on May 31, published the following exposé of "Cobra 77" revealing the European connections of the networks involved and how they operate.

The Sunday Times revealed Sunday that the operation "Cobra 77" against Angola, denounced Feb. 26 by President Neto and planned for September to October of

this year, was prepared with the collaboration of the French Secret Services (SDECE) and those of the West Germans (BND).

Our readers have already been able to document, through these columns, the provocations plotted against independent Angola set up in Europe. Today we are able to furnish the particulars on the French-German involvement, and on the participation of the Black International in the provocations against Angola.

...We are able to note the address of the Senegalese office where the plans for aggression are in preparation: 58 Rue Carnot, Dakar...In fact, this African affiliate of the Americans is one of the largest centers of provocation operations collaborating with the French Secret Services, which lately has been committed to the operation of safeguarding the Mobutu regime, to the attack on the republic of Benin, and the attack on the Angolan province of Cabinda. We are dealing here with the same organization that we have identified in this column before as under the leadership of the ex-De Gaulle agent Foccart,